

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 CCO-00 OTPE-00 EB-11

FCC-03 OC-06 COME-00 NASA-04 SCI-06 SAJ-01 DRC-01

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P R 140952Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 435

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 7456

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, TW, CH

SUBJECT: ROC REPRESENTATION ON INTELSAT

REF: A. STATE 243832

B. TAIPEI 7389

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ROC HAS FORMALLY REQUESTED USG MAKE ALL-OUT EFFORT TO PRESERVE TAIWAN'S MEMBERSHIP IN INTELSAT, AND FAILING THAT, TO ENSURE TAIWAN'S CONTINUED ACCESS TO CRUCIAL COMMUNICATIONS LINK. ALTHOUGH ROC OFFICIALS SEEM REALISTIC, THEY FEEL US UNDER SPECIAL OBLIGATION IN FACE OUR PAST ASSURANCES TO ROC AND HEAVY WEIGHT THEY ASSUME WE PLAY IN INTELSAT STRUCTURE. END SUMMARY.

2. PRIOR RECEIPT REF A, ROC VICE FONMIN HSUEH YU-CHI CALLED IN DCM DECEMBER 14 TO REQUEST ALL-OUT US EFFORT TO PRESERVE ROC MEMBERSHIP IN INTELSAT AND, IF EFFORT SHOULD FAIL, US ASSISTANCE IN MAINTAINING ROC ACCESS TO
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INTELSAT SYSTEM. IN ORAL PRESENTATION AND MEMORANDUM

(SEPTEL), HSUEH STRESSED ROC'S ROLE AS ORIGINAL MEMBER OF ORGANIZATION AND CURCIAL DEPENDENCE ON SATELLITE FOR COMMUNICATIONS WITH US AND JAPAN. HE DID NOT DRAW UNDUE ATTENTION TO OUR WRITTEN ASSURANCES OF NOV 11, 1972.

3. DCM COMMENTED HE DID NOT HAVE OFFICIAL GUIDANCE AND SUGGESTED PRIMARY DISCUSSIONS TAKE PLACZZIN WASHINGTON WHERE EXPERTS LOCATED. HOWEVER, IT WAS APPARENT FROM MATERIAL AVAILABLE TO US THAT ROC ISSUE WOULD ARISE DURING FEBRUARY MEETING AND THAT ROC WAS ALMOST SURE TO BE VOTED OUT OF ORGANIZATION. IF THIS WERE TO OCCUR WE BELIEVED ROC COULD CONTINUE TO USE INTELSAT FACILITIES SINCE CHARTER EXPLICITLY PROVIDED FOR NON-MEMBER USE ON TARIFF BASIS. DCM SAID THAT WHILE HE COULD NOT GUARANTEE US SUCCESS IN ESTABLISHING NON-MEMBER RELATIONSHIP FOR ROC, HE WAS CERTAIN US WOULD MAKE MAJOR EFFORT ALONG THESE LINES.

4. DCM ACKNOWLEDGED THAT OUR DEALINGS WITH ROC ON INTELSAT MIGHT LEAD SOME TO INFER A LACK OF GOOD FAITH. IN FACT, HOWEVER, USG'S HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIONS TO ROC IN NOVEMBER 1972 ABOUT DESIGNATION OF THE EARTH STATIONS REFLECTED GENUINE ESTIMATE THAT CHANGE IN TERMINOLOGY WAS BEST WAY TO PRESERVE ROC MEMBERSHIP. IN ENSURING YEAR, EVENTS HAD EVOLVED ADVERSELY TO POINT WHERE WE COULD NOT PREVENT LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP. UNLIKE COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER (REFTEL B), HSUEH ACCEPTED THIS STATEMENT, URGING ONLY THAT US WORK WITH ROC OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON TO DEVISE THE BEST APPROACH TO PRESERVE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE FOR ROC.

5. COMMENT: ROC PROBABLY HAS A HIGHER ESTIMATE THAN DO WE OF USG'S WEIGHT WITHIN INTELSAT AS WELL AS OUR WILLINGNESS TO THROW OUR WEIGHT AROUND. AS A MINIMUM ROC WISHES: (A) A VIGOROUS US EFFORT WITHIN INTELSAT AGAINST ROC'S OUSTER, AND (B) ALL-OUOJUS CAMPAIGN TO PERMIT ROC TO CONTINUE USING SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS. IF US WERE NOT ABLE TO ACHIEVE LATTER, ROC WOULD BE STUNNED.

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6. ACTION REQUESTED: BELIEVE REFTTEL A WILL SUFFICE FOR OUR PURPOSES WHERE BECAUSE DEPT CAN RESPOND AUTHORITATIVELY WHEN APPROACHED BY ROC EMBASSY WASHINGTON.
MCCONAUGHY

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